

With Edged Tools

By HENRY SETON MERRIMAN
Author of "The Somers," "Roder's Career,"
"From One Generation to Another," Etc.

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The next morning brought further rumors of approaching danger, and it seemed certain that this news must have filtered through Durnovo's fortified camp farther up the river. This time the report was more definite. There were Arabs leading the tribes, and rumor further stated that an organized descent on Msala was intended. And yet there was no word from Durnovo; no sign to suggest that he had even thought of securing the safety of his housekeeper and the few negroes in charge of Msala. This news only strengthened Durnovo's determination to send Marie down to the coast, and he personally superintended their departure before taking his seat in the canoe for the up river voyage. The men of his division had all preceded him, and no one except his own boatmen knew that Msala was to be abandoned.

Despite disquieting rumors, the expedition was allowed to depart from the river camp unmolested. For two days they marched through the gloomy forest with all speed. On the third day one of the men of Durnovo's division captured a native who had been prowling on their heels in the line of march. Victor Durnovo sent captor and prisoner to the front of the column, with a message to Oscar that he would come presently and see what information was to be abstracted from the captive. At the midday halt Durnovo accordingly joined Oscar, and the man was brought before them. He was hardly worthy of the name, so disease stricken, so miserable and half starved was he.

"Ask him," said Oscar, "whether he knows that there is an Englishman with a large force on the top of a mountain far to the east."

Durnovo translated, and the man answered with a smile. In reply to some further question the negro launched into a detailed narrative, to which Durnovo listened eagerly.

"He says," said the latter to Oscar, "that the plateau is in possession of the Masals. It was taken two months ago. The blacks were sold as slaves; the two Englishmen were tortured to death and their bodies burned."

Oscar never moved a muscle.

"Ask him if he is quite sure about it."

"Quite," replied Durnovo after questioning. What a pity! But I always knew it. I knew it was quite hopeless from the first."

He passed his brown hand nervously over his face, where the perspiration stood in beads.

"Yes," said Oscar slowly, "but I think we will go on all the same."

"What!" cried Durnovo. "Go on?"

"Yes," replied Guy Oscar. "We will go on, and if I find you trying to desert I'll shoot you down like a rat."

"About as bad as they can be, sir. That's how things are," Joseph set down his master's breakfast on the rough table that stood in front of his tent and looked at Jack Meredith.

Meredith had a way of performing most of his toilet outside his tent, and while Joseph made his discouraging report he was engaged in buttoning his waistcoat. He nodded gravely, but his manner was not that of a man who fully realized his position of imminent danger. Some men are like this. They die without getting at all flustered.

"There's not more nor two or three out of the whole lot that I can put any trust in," continued Joseph.

Jack Meredith was putting on his coat.

"I know what a barrack room mutiny is. I've felt it in the atmosphere, so to speak, before now, sir."

"And what does it feel like?" inquired Jack Meredith, lightly arranging his watch chain.

But Joseph did not answer. He stepped backward into the tent and brought two rifles. There was no need of answer, for this came in the sound of many voices, the clang and clatter of varied arms.

"Here they come, sir," said the soldier servant, respectfully mindful of his place even at this moment.

Jack Meredith merely sat down behind the little table where his breakfast stood untouched. He leaned his elbow on the table and watched the approach of the disorderly band of blacks. Some ran, some hung back, but all were armed.

In front walked a small, truculent looking man with broad shoulders and an aggressive head.

He planted himself before Meredith, and, turning with a wave of the hand to indicate his followers, said in English:

"These men, these friends of me, say they are tired of you. You no good leader. They make me their leader."

He shrugged his shoulders with a hideous grin of deprecation.

"I not want. They make me. We go to join our friends in the valley."

He pointed down into the valley where the enemy was encamped.

"We have agreed to take £200 for you. Price given by our friends in valley."

The man stopped suddenly. He was looking into the muzzle of a revolver with a fixed fascination. Jack Meredith exhibited no haste. He did not seem yet to have realized the gravity of the situation. He took very careful aim and pulled the trigger. A little puff of white smoke floated over their heads. The broad shouldered man with the aggressive head looked stupidly surprised. He turned toward his supporters with a pained look of inquiry, as if there was something he did not quite understand, and then he fell on his face and lay quite still.

(To be continued.)

SECRETS OF MANY FAMOUS TRICKS

Exposed And Innocent Instruments Become Complex.

Mechanical Devices Play Important Part in Great Feats of Legerdemain.

ILLUSIONS OF THE STAGE.

There is a modest little shop on Sixth avenue, with playing cards, gobs, boxes and other innocent looking objects in the window, in which is manufactured most of the magicians' apparatus used in North and South America, and a good deal that is used in Europe and the Orient. Persons interested in the occult would be surprised to see on the books of the establishment the orders from India itself for apparatus to be used in conjuring tricks by native Indians.

The little shop is the headquarters of magic in America. The walls are covered with portraits of famous performers, the place is full of souvenirs of them and the proprietor can tell many stories of them and their art.

He has, for instance, the vanishing cage of Buntler de Kolts, which Mrs. de Kolts presented to him after the death of the conjurer. Sleight-of-hand men declare that de Kolts was the greatest prestidigitator that ever lived. He never used a trick invented by any other person, and he is said to have invented more tricks which have been copied by other performers than any other man.

This vanishing cage was a favorite. It was simply a bird cage, containing a live canary, which he held out in plain view of the audience. Then the whole thing disappeared.

That was all there was to it, but it was most mysterious. The cage was collapsible and disappeared up de Kolts's sleeve. The art consisted in making it disappear invisibly and without hurrying the canary.

De Kolts made this cage with his own hands. Most prestidigitators have been expert mechanics. Many of them have originally been watchmakers or optical instrument manufacturers. The next most prolific sources of supply have been the professions of chemistry and medicine.

A souvenir of "Alexander the Great" Herrmann shows the pleasure which that prince of the art took in his own hocus focus. This was too small a trick to use on the stage, but he invented it merely to amuse his friends in his own home.

It is a little cabinet of ebony, inlaid with mother-of-pearl, containing thirty-two small drawers, just the size of a playing card, all numbered. The observer was asked to choose one of the 32 cards and to name the drawer in which he would have it appear. The card always appeared in the right drawer.

The conjurer's art lay in compelling the selection of the right card, the drawers had false bottoms and springs, and a card like that selected had been previously concealed in all of them, waiting for a deft pressure to bring it to light in the drawer selected.

Visitors to the proprietor of this little shop of magic sometimes sit down unawares upon a plain, old-fashioned sofa, which they are surprised to learn was once the throne of a high priestess of the occult, Miss Hattie Heller, in her famous second-sight act with Robert Heller. This trick awakened wide interest 30 years ago. It seemed most mysterious and inexplicable, and puzzled even those who knew that it was a trick.

Miss Heller sat upon the sofa blindfolded, with her back to the audience. Heller, in the audience, borrowed objects from spectators, and Miss Heller described them sometimes. Not a word was spoken by Heller nor could she see him to get her cue by his gestures.

The apparatus did it all. The sofa was wired for an electric battery. A confederate sat in the audience, his chair connected with the battery, the electric push button under his seat. A code was arranged by which Miss Heller knew exactly what to say.

The performance was rendered more mysterious by Heller's talking to her in part of the tests. Some people supposed, of course that he was giving her the cue with his questions. But when the same results were obtained in silence the suspicious were also mystified.

Apparatus is an elastic term which used in connection with legerdemain. Some pieces of apparatus can be concealed between two fingers. Others fill boxes 10 feet long.

The earlier magicians used cumbersome apparatus. Frikell, a Finn, born in 1818, who was knighted by the king of Denmark and received diamond rings and the like from most of the sovereigns of Europe, revolutionized the art. He used no apparatus at all.

This tendency prevailed for many years, but at the present time the tendency is toward big, showy effects

DR. BOUCHELLE



Dr. L. B. Bouchelle, of Thomasville, Ga., a physician well known in the south, is very enthusiastic over the cod liver oil preparation, Vinol. He says: "I have used Vinol in my family and in my general practice with the most satisfactory results. It is exceedingly beneficial to those afflicted with bronchial or pulmonary diseases and to create strength."

Our local druggist, W. B. McPherson, says people of Paducah should remember that Vinol is not a patent medicine, but the medicinal elements of good old-fashioned cod liver oil in a highly concentrated form—taken direct from fresh cod's livers—the useless oil eliminated and tonic iron added.

This is why it is prescribed so generally for bronchial and pulmonary diseases. It is splendid to create an appetite, strengthen and tone up the digestive organs, make rich red blood and replace weakness with strength.

We ask every weak, thin, run-down, nervous and aged person in Paducah, and all those suffering from chronic colds, coughs and weak lungs, to try Vinol on our offer to return money if it does not benefit them. W. B. McPherson, Druggist.

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and gorgeous stage settings is bringing in the use of more complicated apparatus than ever. A first-class magician now travels with a railroad car full of apparatus. Fifteen thousand dollars is not an unusual sum to pay for staging a first-class magician's show nowadays.

It is a mechanical age. Present day prestidigitators in no way excel the old fellows in pure legerdemain, but a flood of mechanical inventions has come to help them, and all the conjurers have to do is to manipulate these skillfully and gracefully. Their task is no easier, however, for it is a sharper and more skeptical age than the earlier men played to, and one used to mechanism of all kinds.

The little shop carried a thousand different kinds of apparatus in stock. Then there are thousands of others which it is called upon to make. Some of them very old. Every day come book or leaf out of a book will arrive from Kalamazoo or Calcutta, with a letter stating that the writer wants to do the trick described and wants the apparatus for it constructed.

The great present-day inventions in the art are illusions and levitation, both of which require elaborate devices. Harry Kellar's levitation act, in which the body of a man rose slowly into midair and remained suspended there while the hypnotizer fanned him, required a complicated machine behind the scenes to work it.

AN INVITATION TO WOMEN

There is an attraction, a halo of beauty, surrounding a healthy woman that is not equalled by mere prettiness of face and figure. Yet fine women out of ten do not know how to retain their health, the one necessary aid to either beauty or happiness.

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If we could only get you to write for a copy of this free booklet on "Good Health," get you to go to your druggist for one bottle of LIFE PLANT, we would not need to advertise to you again. Any woman desiring special medical advice is invited to write to I. J. Mizer, M. D., President of

THE LIFE PLANT COMPANY,
Canton, Ohio.

IMPROVEMENTS OF THE WATERWAYS

Is Becoming More The Popular Demand.

Several Important Meetings in Regard to Great Rivers Take Place Soon.

OUR MILLION OF IMMIGRANTS

Washington, Oct. 29.—The national capital is evincing surprise at the wonderful growth of sentiment throughout the country in favor of a more liberal policy with regard to the development of the nation's rivers and harbors. The Ohio River improvement association and the International Waterways commission have just adjourned their conventions in Portsmouth, O., and Chicago, respectively, while a large number of state, interstate and national meetings to consider the same question are set for early dates.

The Tennessee River improvement association is to convene in Sheffield, Alabama, November 8; the Deep Waterway convention meets in St. Louis, November 15 and 16, and the Trans-Mississippi Commercial congress, which will devote the greater part of its session to a discussion of waterway improvements, gathers in Kansas City November 19. Secretaries Root and Shaw are to speak at this meeting, and the movement is expected to receive the endorsement of the administration. There are several other meetings throughout the country to be held before the convention in this city of the national Rivers and Harbors congress, which is set for December. It is the hope of the advocates of more extensive river and harbor work to induce congress to appropriate \$50,000,000 annually for the development of the nation's natural resources.

At present the sum devoted to the work is pitifully small, and effective work cannot be done. A congressman in calling attention to this matter, discloses the fact that in the last general appropriations bill, the army, navy interior department and pensions took 40 per cent of the \$712,000,000, while public improvements received less than 3 per cent. The upbuilding of the rivers and harbors, it is contended, would more than pay for the work done by the development of domestic and foreign commerce, to say nothing of the immense sums saved to the people through reduced freight rates made possible by water transportation.

1,400,000 Immigrants.

According to Secretary Metcalf of the department of commerce and labor, immigration for the year probably will reach the enormous total of 1,400,000 persons. The secretary made the statement this week after a conference with President Roosevelt, the subject of which he declined to reveal. It probably had to do with the secretary's investigation of methods at the Ellis Island immigration station, through which passes 77 per cent of the incoming hordes of aliens.

Said Marcus Aurelius.

Brief is the sliding time allotted thee for breath.

Live as on a mountain. Let men behold a Man.

If they cannot suffer him, let them deal him death.

Better climb and die than plod in that dull caravan.

—Katherine Lee Bates, in Everybody's Magazine for October.

"Now I am ready, how do I look, dear?" "You remind me of a Sioux in his war paint." "Oh, you nasty thing—" "Don't cry, darling; I only meant you were dressed to kill." —Baltimore American.

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WATER CONTRACT TO BE VOTED ON AT THE NOVEMBER ELECTION

REPORT OF JOINT LIGHT AND WATER COMMITTEE ON NEW CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PADUCAH AND THE PADUCAH WATER COMPANY.

Owing to the fact that the contract existing between the city of Paducah and the local water company for fire hydrants expires during the current month it was incumbent upon the general council to negotiate for such service covering the remaining period which the franchise of the water company still has to run, to-wit: eighteen years.

After several conferences between the joint light and water committee and the officers of the water company a scale of rates for fire hydrants was agreed upon by the committee and the water company. These rates have been embodied in a contract which will be submitted to the general council for such action as the wisdom of that body may determine. If the proposed contract is favorably acted upon by the general council, it must be submitted to the voters of the city at the next election and affirmatively ratified by not less than two-thirds of the vote then cast upon the question before contract between the city and the water company can be finally executed.

It is therefore worth while for the voters of the city to carefully consider the terms of the proposed contract before casting their votes at the coming election, and if it appears that the proposed contract is to the advantage of the city, then to register their approval thereof upon their ballots.

In order that the voters may have an opportunity to become fully advised regarding the terms of the proposed contract a copy of the same is herewith submitted which reads as follows:

"Section 1. That the City of Paducah, Ky., agrees to rent and does hereby rent from Paducah Water company, its successors and assigns, four hundred and eleven (411) double nozzle fire hydrants now established in said city for a period of eighteen (18) years from the passage and final approval of this ordinance, after an election by the people as hereinafter provided. The annual rental for each of said fire hydrants, which the city of Paducah hereby agrees to pay for the first ten (10) years of said term, shall be twenty (\$20.00) dollars and the annual rental for the remaining eight (8) years shall be fifteen (\$15.00) dollars, unless the said city shall sooner purchase water company's plant, with six (6) per cent interest upon deferred payments. The payments of said rentals shall be made as provided in the original ordinance contract.

"Section 2. All additional hydrants on extensions of mains that may be erected hereafter by the Paducah Water company, its successors or assigns, as provided in the original ordinance contract during the said eighteen years, shall be charged and paid for as provided in section one hereof; but at the expiration of ten (10) years from the time this ordinance shall have been finally approved as set out above, all the then fire hydrants shall be charged and paid for at the uniform rate as above provided and the contract therefor shall expire at the end of the eighteen years fixed in section one.

"Section 3. Before this ordinance shall become effective it shall be submitted to a vote of the qualified voters of the city of Paducah, Ky., at the general election to be held in said city on the 6th day of November, 1906, the said vote to be taken in the manner and as provided by law for the submission of public questions to the voters of said city.

"Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from its passage approval and ratification by the qualified voters of the city of Paducah, Ky., and a written acceptance of its terms and conditions by the Paducah Water company filed with the clerk of the city of Paducah, Ky., within ten (10) days after the official certificate of its approval at the popular election."

At the present time the water company has installed for the use of the city 411 fire plugs, which under the old contract are rated and cost each year as follows:

150 fire plugs at \$40.00... \$6,000.00
20 fire plugs at \$30.00... 900.00
231 fire plugs at \$25.00... 5,775.00

Total \$12,675.00

Under the proposed contract this same service would cost the city but \$8,220.00 for each of the first ten years of the contract a saving upon the number of hydrants now installed of \$4,455.00 per annum and for the ten year period a saving of \$44,550.00.

For each of the last eight years which the franchise has to run, the cost for 411 hydrants would be \$6,165, a saving to the city of \$6,510 per annum or of \$52,080 for the entire eight years of the franchise, making a total saving to the city between the existing contract and

the proposed contract of \$96,630. There is nothing contained in the proposed contract changing the rights of the city or those of the water company under the original franchise. The city still retains the right to purchase the water company's plant at the expiration of each five year period in accordance with the terms of the original franchise.

This committee has also compared the rates contained in the proposed contract with those in effect in 127 other cities for the same class of service and finds the proposed rates lower than those paid by any of these cities. The approximate average cost per hydrant in the number of cities mentioned above is \$48.

The rates referred to were submitted by the local water company and this committee assume that the figures are correct. The list of the cities with the rate paid in each is on file with this committee and anyone desiring to verify the figures contained therein may have the opportunity of doing so at any time.

It should also be borne in mind that until a new contract is entered into between the city and the water company, that the rates charged under the existing contract will maintain. The only alternatives offered to escape from the old rates are either to make a new contract or to discontinue the service, the latter, of course, being quite impossible.

Therefore this committee has, no hesitation in recommending to the general council and to the voters of the city of Paducah, that the proposed contract be ratified.

JOINT LIGHT AND WATER COMMITTEE.

Unlimited Versatility.

Senator Dick, of Ohio, not long ago secured for the young son of an old friend a position in a Cincinnati business house.

A short while after the youth had entered on his new duties, the senator met the head of the firm.

"How is the boy getting on?" he asked.

"He was discharged three days after he came," was the answer.

The senator was surprised. "Why," declared he, "I've always understood that Tom was a most versatile young man."

"He's versatile, all right!" responded the head of the firm; "there isn't any kind of work he won't shirk." —Success Magazine.

Doctors.

There are 228,234 medical doctors in the world. Of these there are in Europe 162,333, distributed as follows: In England, 34,967; in Germany, 22,518; in Russia, 21,489; in France, 20,348; and in Italy, 18,245. In England the proportion of doctors is 78 to 100,000 of the population. In France it is 51 and in Turkey 18. In Brussels the proportion is 241 to 100,000 of the population; in Madrid, 209; in Budapest, 198; in Christiania, 181; in Vienna, 140; in Berlin, 132; in London, 128; in Athens, 123; in Paris, 111; in New York, 74; and in Constantinople, 35.—Exchange.

Origin of "Typhoon."

To which language is the word "typhoon" ultimately to be traced? "Taifung," it is explained in some dictionaries, is a literal Chinese for "great wind," and since the typhoon is a phenomenon of three China seas that seems at first conclusive. But there is no doubt, apparently, that "typhoon" and Dampier "tifoon," come to us through Portuguese for the Arabic, Persian and Indian "tufan," and it is almost impossible not to see in this a relation of the ancient Greek "typhos" or "typhon," a whirlwind.—Chronicle.

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